

TIMELY TOPICS TALLIED.

A Review of Contemporary Sayings of the Quill drivers of the Afro-American Press.

H.C. Smith, of the Cleveland Gazette, was a looker-on Vienna at the Philadelphia convention. He is satisfied that Mark Hanna has eliminated the Negro from all his calculations as an essential source of Republican success next fall. He believes the ticket nominated will bring no enthusiasm among the colored voters of the middle west, including Ohio. He is also satisfied that thousands will remain from the poles and let the election go by default.



HON. H. C. SMITH.

One of the wisest acts recently done by Maj. Richard Rising Wright is his expressed determination, contained in an interview in the Atlanta Constitution, not to have anything more to do with politics, but to devote all his energies to his school work. Politics and educational management don't mix "way down south," and we are glad that Major Wright has found it out at last. His salary has been raised to \$1,600 by the regents of his school, while there will be nothing but bouquets henceforth from his aforetime colored political opponents.



MAJOR R. R. WRIGHT.

Mr. John C. Asbury, of the Odd Fellows Journal, referring to Mr. Charles W. Chesnutt, says: "It is disappointing however to find a colored writer of Mr. Chesnutt's genius devoting his splendid ability to the portrayal of the customs, aims, ambitions, aspirations, follies and inconsistencies of such an insignificant portion of the colored race, a coterie of colored people in Cleveland, Ohio, who have long been the butt of ridicule of the entire race, who do not represent more than one-half of one per cent. of ten millions of the Afro-American people in this country."

Mr. Asbury forgets that Mr. Chesnutt, like Dunbar, writes for a reading constituency, that constituency thus far has shown more interest in these phases and those characteristics of our life that represent the contented masses, not helped by culture than those of the classes who are bent on civil and social recognition. Let Mr. Asbury be patient. The "jim crow" and the "blue veined" will not be the only types to interest the reading public.

The Atlanta Age refers to the opinion expressed in an interview of Abner McKinley, brother to the President, as to the policy of buying up large plantations in the South, subdividing and selling them on long time to the Negro. As Mr. McKinley observes, no agency would go further toward the solution of the so-called race problem, because of the independence, self reliance and manliness it would cultivate. If Abner puts himself at the head of a syndicate to carry out these views he would be as great an advance agent of prosperity as his more famous brother.

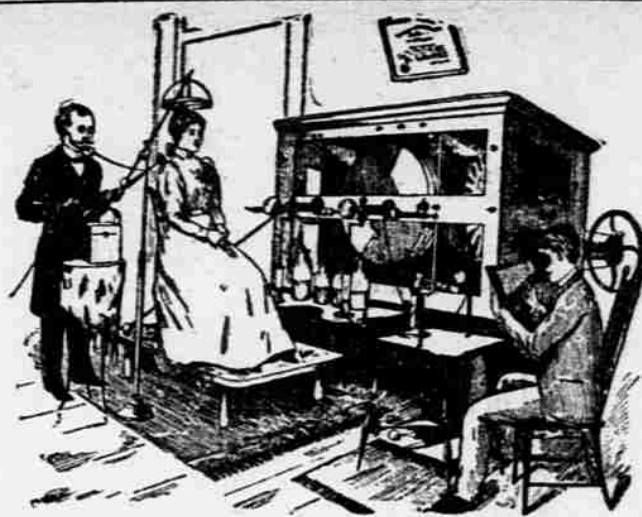


CHARLES W. CHESNUTT.

The sociological inquiry made this year by the Atlanta University Congress, "The Career of the College-bred Negro" is a most timely contribution to current discussion opened by the remarkable address of Charles Dudley Warner. It is shown that 2414 Negroes have graduated from college since 1826, and that the average during the last six years has about 130. With but few exceptions these have found congenial work. Fifty-five per cent become teachers, while others have gone into business, journalism, farming and trade in increasing numbers.

The Pioneer Press, Martinsburg, W. Va. which with the end of the century will enter on its twentieth volume makes a center shot in ridiculing the "National Negro Party" business as follows: "If the race had union in it, such an idea as the one proposed in Philadelphia would redound to our good, but considering how bad our political affairs now are, and knowing how acrobatic some Negroes are, we had better 'stop monkeying.' What we should do and nothing else is; carefully survey the political arena and ally our forces where we can derive some benefit from it. The Negro vote is a balance of power in America, and if we have men of character and brains to give us the cue, when, and how to use our power, the Negro is bound to be sought after by various parties."

Howard's American Magazine has the following to say under the head of "The Forward Movement" of the inability on the part of our critics to discuss affairs concerning our people with any degree of intelligence: "The proceedings of these two representative re-



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ligious bodies (A. M. E. and A. M. E. Z) form no part of the news daily heralded by the associated press, although in their joint capacities they represented over two and a half million churchmen and their deliberation immeasurably affect the welfare of the whole race variety. * * Taking jointly these bodies, expanding from a blacksmith shop in 1787 to 8,366 church edifices in 1900; from 42 communicants then to 1,192,167 now; and a total number of adherents of 2,092,166, from two ministers to 8,841, presided over by 23 bishops. These two organizations own more than \$16,000,000 worth of church property and conduct 30 odd colleges and seminaries for the education and training of the young."

Dont Read This!

More than 500 letters were sent out from this office last week. They were all of the same nature and they treated the same subject. A great many who will read this item received one of these letters. This notice is a reminder and if you have not sent in what is due on the subscription, you should send it at once. The Colored American is brimful of news and those who read it and appreciate it should send along their subscriptions as soon as they know it to be due.

Is it not strange that when a white man puts a letter in a white paper denouncing the whole Negro race, and advocating legislation to deprive the Negro of his rights that no Negro will venture to work against the paper containing the letter? Several white papers have had articles reflecting upon the whole race—those papers have more Negro subscribers now than ever before. Now, The Independent published a letter concerning a white man and the streets are crowded with Negroes crying, "Boycott The Independent." For what? For publishing an article against a white man. —Houston (Texas) Independent.

It is evidently a race trait. The same conditions prevail in the District of Columbia as in the far away Lone Star State, which shows that human (Negro) nature is about the same everywhere.

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